



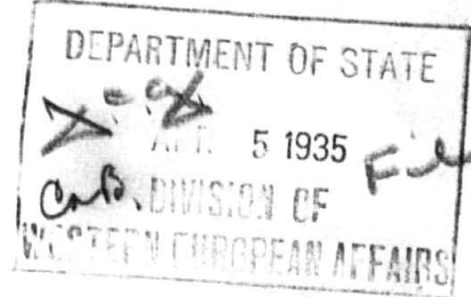
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ROME, March 21, 1935.

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No. 1010.

Subject: Phosphate Deposits in Libya.



Distribution Instructions

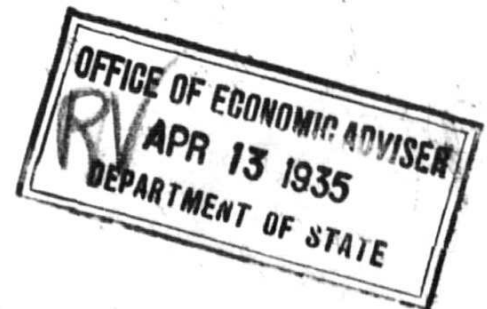
- 1- Commerce
- 2- Interior (Bureau of Mines)

AW

APR 10 1935

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.



Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that, according to the press, Commendatore Sanfilippo, an experienced prospector, has discovered large deposits of phosphate in the Sofegin basin, Libya, less than one hundred kilometers from the coast and extending over an area of thirty thousand hectares.

The Italian Government expects to send a commission, composed of the Chief of the Water Control Office of Tripoli, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. Sanfilippo, to make further investigations.

Italian

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FP

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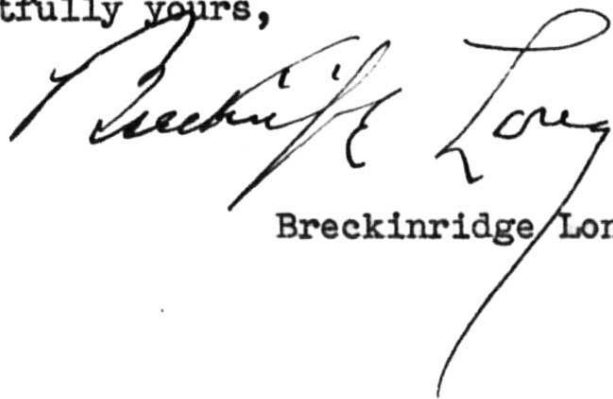
PM RECD



Italian imports of phosphates amount to about fifty million lire annually. In view of the desperate efforts being made to reduce Italy's unfavorable trade balance, even this possible saving will receive serious attention.

[In discussion recently with Mr. Rowan, the representative of the American interests in the European Phosphate Cartel, however, he told me that the quality of the Libyan phosphates was very inferior to the Moroccan and that the deposits were so deeply set in the desert that he doubted very much if they could be profitably worked because of their isolation and low grade.]

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Breckinridge Long". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Breckinridge Long.

GG/amc/eh

863.7

Central File: Decimal File 865C.6377, Internal Affairs Of States, Mines. Mining. Concessions., Other Mining Products., Libya, Phosphates., March 21, 1935. 21 Mar. 1935. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109726889/FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.